

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS AND
SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

NOVEMBER 24, 2015

ADOPTING AFFORDABLE BROADBAND ACCESS FOR ALL

High-speed Internet access, commonly referred to as “broadband,” and includes both wireline and wireless technologies, is essential 21st Century infrastructure in a digital world. By closing the digital divide, we strengthen economic prosperity and quality of life for residents, businesses and numerous stakeholders in Los Angeles County and throughout California. However, much improvement is still needed to expand broadband access in communities with the greatest need.

Today, having adequate internet connection is a must-have for academic assignments, information on healthcare, communicating with friends and relatives, finding employment and starting a business. While broadband service is now available to most Americans, too many communities still remain unconnected to data networks.

According to the 2015 Annual Survey on broadband adoption in Los Angeles County by the Field Research Corporation, only 76% of the 10.1 million residents have broadband access at home (66% via computer, 10% smart phone only).

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

The County of Los Angeles is committed to helping all residents, and in particular, individuals who still face challenges with broadband access, use the internet to utilize the services and resources provided by the County.

The Internet For All Now Campaign, through the California Emerging Technology Fund, is urging the Federal Communications Commission to establish an affordable Broadband Lifeline Program through reform of the Universal Services Fund that addresses three primary barriers to broadband adoption: 1) Cost, 2) Relevance, and 3) Digital Literacy; and there is an opportunity to partner with the California Emerging Technology Fund to request the Federal Communications Commission to support an affordable broadband program like Lifeline for telephone service.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors join the California Emerging Technology Fund as champions of the Broadband Lifeline Program described in the Internet For All Now Campaign; and that upon adoption of this motion, the County of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 Federal Legislative Program support of legislation or administrative action that urges the Federal Communications Commission to adopt an affordable broadband program for disadvantaged residents of Los Angeles County, particularly those who are seniors, who come from low-income households, or have disabilities.

#

HLS: rv